

Middle School students caught with marijuana

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS TOWNSHIP - Two Dallas Middle School students are on mandatory probation for six to 12 months and will be required to submit to periodic drug tests after admitting they smoked marijuana in a school lavatory.

Police confiscated a glassine envelope containing a vegetable substance and two small pipes - one improvised from a Paper-Mate pen and the other from a 15/32" socket from a socket wrench set - from two boys, 14 and 15 years old, March 4 after an intensive investigation by school authorities and police.

According to principal Anthony Martinelli, a teacher making a routine check of the lavatory smelled an odd, sweet-smelling smoke and alerted him.

Martinelli called police, who confiscated the envelope and pipes and sent them to the Pennsylvania State Police crime lab for processing, police said.

"I would like to commend Officer Dennis for the professional way in which he handled the investigation," Martinelli said.

Police charged the boys with two violations of the Controlled Substance and Cosmetics Act: use of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. They have been petitioned to Luzerne County Juvenile Court and were suspended from school for 10 days.

"We want to make a statement to the school and community that we have a zero tolerance policy for students doing drugs," said investigating officer Jeff Dennis. "Bringing marijuana to school and smoking it on the grounds is a serious offense. It makes the school atmosphere hard on the other students and will not be

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Jeff Dennis
Dallas Twp. police

tolerated. We will arrest anyone caught with drugs or using drugs at school. There will be no breaks for anyone."

The boys are first-time offenders, he added. "This is the first time in my 3 1/2 years as a principal that students in my building have been caught with drugs," Martinelli said.

Further punishment could include expulsion from school, homebound instruction, referral to Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18's alternative education program or sending the student to another school, according to superintendent Gerald Wycallis.

"We're waiting for advice from our solicitor and recommendations from the board," he said. "Mr. Martinelli met with the solicitor, but we don't have anything in writing yet. Until the board makes a decision, the boys will be tutored at home as part of our homebound instruction program."

Homebound instruction is provided by district teachers, who earn \$20 per hour from the district. Each student may receive up to five hours per week, Wycallis said.

The district also picks up the tab for alternative education programs, which runs approximately \$5,000 per year.

It is the parents' responsibility to pay for expelled students' tuition at other schools, Wycallis said. Some public schools, as well as all private and parochial schools, charge

for their services.

In expulsion cases, the district usually recommends transferring the student to another school before he or she is expelled, Wycallis said.

"In the past we have had several parents agree to transfer their children before we expel them," he said. "The last time we expelled middle school students for similar offenses was about four or five years ago."

Drug use among the younger set has increased and moved into the fifth and sixth grades, according to prevention education supervisor Stefanie Wolownik at Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug.

"Kids will tell you they can get any drug they want on the street - and they're correct," she said. "Something happens with this age group which makes them forget all the pledges they made to avoid cigarettes, alcohol and drugs. All they want is to be accepted, and among their peers; if it means using drugs, tobacco or alcohol, they will."

Fifth and sixth graders start abusing inhalants (the slang term is "huffing") and soon graduate to over-the-counter drugs. By the time the kids get to high school, the drugs of choice become marijuana or heroin, which now comes in a more "socially acceptable" form which can be snorted (inhaled through the nose) instead of injected into the veins.

"Kids use the way they see their parents using, for example by taking lots of pills or by drinking, sometimes as young as age seven," Wolownik said. "They're bombarded by it in the media - commercials for cigarettes and alcohol in magazines and drug use on TV shows. The entire community must become involved in the war on drugs."

Granger reappointed to planning commission

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP - The supervisors appointed Steuben Granger to the planning commission to replace Hank Psołka, who resigned last month for business reasons.

A retired civil engineer and contractor, Granger is a native of Wyoming, PA, who moved to the township in 1989. Granger had been appointed to the commission October 9 by the previous board of supervisors, then replaced after the November election.

In other planning commission matters, the supervisors unanimously voted to stagger the terms of newly appointed commission members so that the terms of no more than two expire at the end of any year. The term of Frank Hilstolsky will be for two years, while Lee Clark's term will be three years.

The supervisors also unanimously voted to have secretary Davida Roberts attest to the January ordinance which added two more members to the three-member planning commission. It had been passed but the former secre-

tary had not signed and sealed it, according to chairman Bill Miller.

The supervisors and planning commission will hold a special work session April 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the fire hall to update the special exception and nonconforming use sections of the zoning ordinance.

A second special meeting will be scheduled with John Giambra, developer of Bella Mundana, and officials from Exeter Township to finalize Giambra's development plan and the agreement on the development between the two townships. Bella Mundana is a 25-lot subdivision, which has 18 lots in Franklin Township and seven lots and a proposed sewage treatment plant on Sutton Creek in Exeter Township.

In other business, the supervisors unanimously voted to place secretary/treasurer Davida Roberts in charge of all necessary paperwork for flood damage reimbursement from the state and federal emergency management agencies (FEMA and PEMA), authorized the solicitor to advertise for bids to resurface the lower section of Lockville Road and added a \$60 fee for placing new mobile homes in trailer parks to the zoning fee schedule.

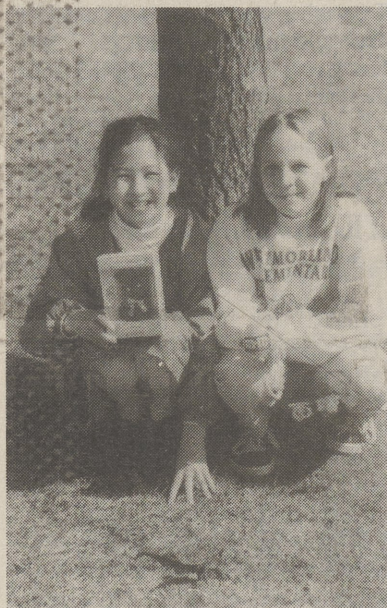
BMT Republicans' candidates' nite April 9

The Back Mountain Republican Association will host a "meet the Candidates Night" April 9, 7-9 p.m. at the Irem Temple Country Club. Republican candidates for U.S. Congress, state representative, the state committee and delegates to the national convention will be present to meet and speak with the public. Refreshments will be served.

Mothers of Twins/Triplets to meet April 8

The Luzerne County Mothers of Twins and Triplets Club will meet April 8, at 8 p.m. Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at St. John's Lutheran Church, corner of River and Academy Streets, Wilkes-Barre. All mothers of multiples are welcome to attend. For more information contact Paula Woolfolk, 474-9858.

HAPPY HUNTING II



Kim Reisch, left, and Alicia Kaiser.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTZEK



After the hunt, a spin on the carousel was in order. From left. Jennie Dudy, Paige Burke, Molly Gilligan, Janelle Hetro, Lauren Macri, Kaitlin Musto, Nicole Macri.

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